

Mary Lou Terrien

From: Pamela Lucas <lucaspd455@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:27 AM
To: Mary Lou Terrien
Subject: I am opposed to to HB 5232/SB 720

This letter is to express my strong opposition to HB 5232/SB 720, a bill *that infringes on my right* to choose to own a house that is protected by regulations governing National, State and Local historic districts.

Passage would jeopardize my private property rights by permitting changes to my historic home and to others in the Heritage Hill neighborhood that are not in keeping with the guidelines of the Department of Interior. Furthermore, it would jeopardize our National designation and could result in the loss of tax credits for historically-appropriate repairs on income-producing properties.

Other negative ramifications, according to the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, include:

- *Loss of local government authority.* Owner consent for establishing a local historic district places a community's ability to protect what it finds important in the hands of a few private property owners.
- *Loss of neutral appeals process.* Currently, over 95% of applications for work that historic district commissions review are approved and fewer than eight appeals are heard per year—there was only one appeal in the past year.
- *Loss of reliable review standards.* Allowing for optional standards that are "in the best interest of the community" is extremely vague and might have nothing to do with historic preservation.
- *Loss of the Certified Local Government program.* Since 2003, nearly \$1.5 million in grant funds have been awarded to rehabilitation and other preservation projects in communities with local historic districts. The proposed changes to the law could jeopardize this program.

I am also strongly opposed to decisions regarding historic repairs *based on politics*. For politicians to regulate alterations rather than to entrust that task to citizens knowledgeable in historic guidelines is inappropriate and a grave mistake.

Thanks to PA 169 of 1970, Michigan's historic treasures have been protected, and the Act has fostered millions in private investment dollars. There is no reason to modify this highly successful public act now.

I ask, therefore, that you protect *my property rights* and *my investment* under the current rule of PA 169, and oppose any legislation to change it.

Sincerely,

Pamela Lucas

455 Morris Ave SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503